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Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/WE/REBARBOUR
APPROVED BY EUR - MR. LAINGEN
---------- 095428
O R 022155Z DEC 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 293936

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PO, PINT

SUBJECT:SOARES ON SPANISH AND ITALIAN COMMUNISTS

1. WIRE SERVICES CARRY FOLLOWING EXCERPT FROM NOVEMBER 27 STATEMENT BY SOARES ON HIS RETURN FROM GENEVA: QUOTE NOTHING MAKES US DOUBT WHAT THE LEADERS OF ITALIAN AND SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTIES HAVE BEEN SAYING ABOUT THEIR WILLINGNESS TO JOIN IN AN EFFECTIVE DEMOCRACY AND RESPECT THE RULES AND AIMS OF SUCH A DEMOCRACY AS A NORMAL COURSE TOWARD SOCIALISM. UNQUOTE

2. IF THERE IS AN EARLY AND SUITABLY INFORMAL OCCASION TO SEE SOARES, PARTICULARLY BEFORE HE GOES TO MADRID FOR PSOE CONFERENCE, YOU SHOULD IMPRESS UPON HIM THE GREAT DAMAGE THAT STATEMENTS SUCH AS THAT QUOTED DO TO THE SOCIALIST PARTIES OF SPAIN AND ITALY. WHILE WE RECOGNIZE THAT SUCH STATEMENTS ARE NOT NEW AND MAY HAVE BENEFITS IN PORTUGAL, WE HOPE YOU CAN IMPRESS UPON SOARES THAT THE SOCIALIST PARTIES IN THE OTHER TWO COUNTRIES HAVE NEED OF AS MUCH EXTERNAL SUPPORT AND SYMPATHY AS THEY CAN GET IN ORDER TO FACE SERIOUS THREATS FROM THEIR LEFT. SOARES' CONFIDENTIAL

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STATURE IS NOW SUCH THAT FURTHER FAVORITISM TO THE SPANISH

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AND ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTIES COULD AFFECT THE FUTURE OF
SOCIALIST PARTIES THERE. ROBINSON

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